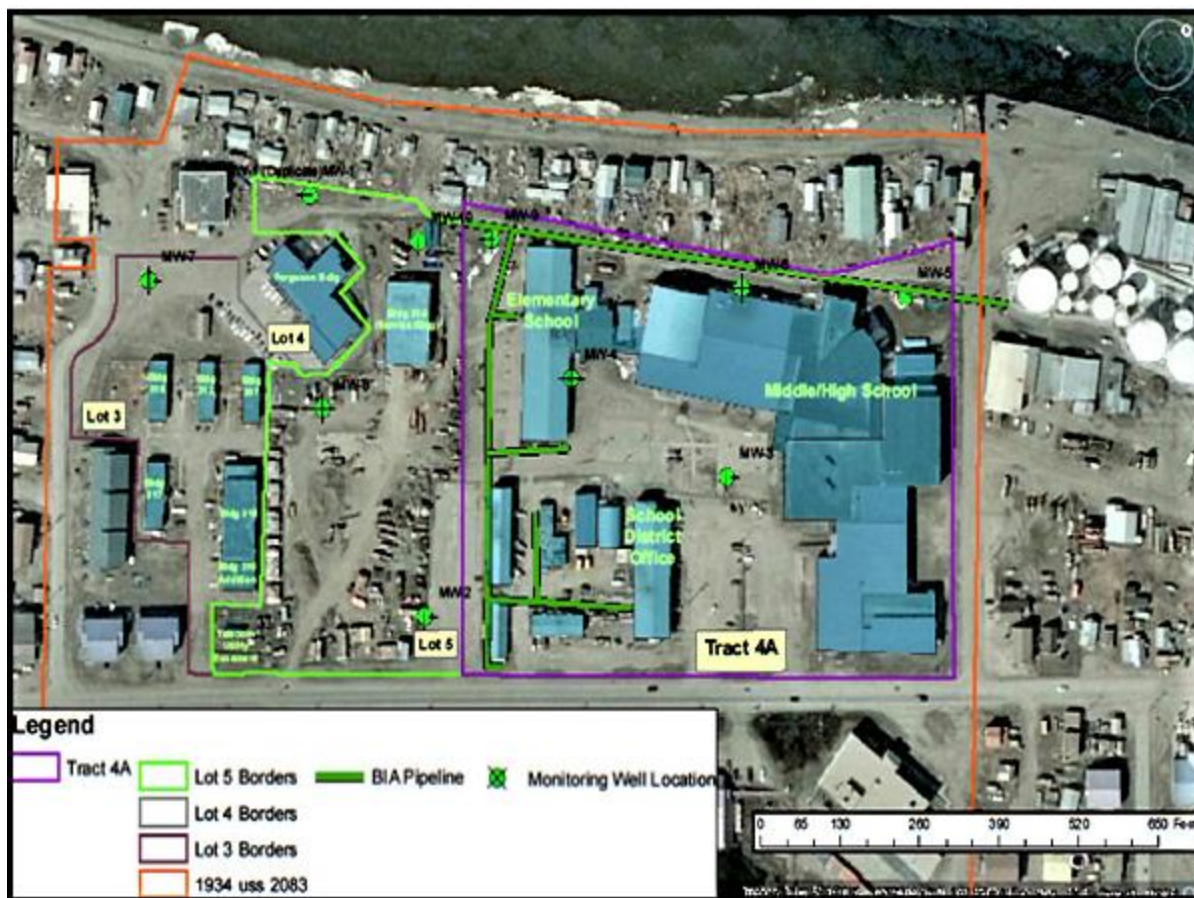




## Former Hospital-School Pipeline Release

**Working Together:** The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) is working with a number of private, tribal, local, state, and federal partners to make progress on the Former Hospital-School Pipeline Release contaminated site. Together they make up the technical working group.



Courtesy: WHPacific (2015 Report)

### Goals for Site

It is the technical working group's goal to determine the full extent of contamination associated with the release and cleanup contamination posing a risk to human health and the environment. During the process, ADEC would also like to keep an open line of communication with the community of Kotzebue to ensure needs are met.

## Summer 2019 Work

The Indian Health Service plans on removing an underground storage tank from the north side of the Ferguson building. During the tank removal, soil that is contaminated with fuel will also be removed. The contaminated soil will then be taken to the Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation landfarm for treatment. During this effort, groundwater samples will be collected.

## History

The Indian Health Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs operated a hospital and school in Kotzebue before Alaska was even a State. The hospital and school were heated by a system of tanks and above and underground pipelines that went throughout the school and hospital properties. During the 1960s there were reports of ruptures and leaks from the pipeline. The ruptures were reportedly repaired, but fuel still remained in the surrounding environment. Fuel seeped into the school (now elementary school) basement, ditches, and local wells. In 1985, the pipelines were abandoned in place. ADEC contracted Shannon and Wilson to conduct an environmental site assessment in 1989 to sample soil, water, the beach, and inventory all remaining tanks. During the 1990s there was a gap in activity at the site. In 2008, local Kotzebue residents noticed sheen on the ocean of Kotzebue Sound. As a result, ADEC contracted an environmental consultant to resample the contaminated soil, beach, and water. In 2015, the Indian Health Service collected soil and water samples across all four lots of the original school and hospital property. In winter 2018, the Northwest Arctic Borough sampled the air in the elementary school for any fuel vapors. In winter 2019, the technical working group did a desk top inventory of all known tanks and pipelines at the site.

## Questions or Comments?

ADEC welcomes all questions or comments. Please contact the ADEC project manager or public involvement specialist. You may call, email, or visit our office and website.

Erin Gleason  
Project Manager  
907-269-7556

Natalie Travis  
Public Involvement Specialist  
907-269-0598

[erin.gleason@alaska.gov](mailto:erin.gleason@alaska.gov)

[natalie.travis@alaska.gov](mailto:natalie.travis@alaska.gov)

<http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/sites/kotzebue/>

555 Cordova Street ■ Anchorage, Alaska ■ 99501